

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 USBERLIN 00232
E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: WB, PINT
SUBJECT: SCHUETZ UNDER ATTACK AGAIN

SUMMARY:

AN 18-PAGE ESSAY (DENKSCHRIFT) APPARENTLY
WRITTEN BY DISSIDENTS WITHIN THE BERLIN SPD AND
CALLI G FOR THE REMOVAL OF KLAUS SCHUETZ AS GOVERNING
MAYOR AND AS HEAD OF THE BERLIN SPD HAS BEEN SUBMITTED
ANONYMOUSLY TO SPD HEADQUARTERS IN BONN AND RELEASED
TO THE PRESS. THE PAPER HAS CREATED A MINOR UPROAR
IN THE BERLIN PRESS AND HAS PROMPTED THE BERLI CDU
TO CALL FOR EARLY ELECTIONS IN BERLIN. OFFICIAL
REACTION FROM GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ AND THE SENAT
HAS BEEN TO DISMISS THE PAPER AND ITS AUTHORS AS
UNWORTHLY OF COMMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JANUARY 15, DIE WELT REPORTED THAT A GROUP OF
RANK AND FILE BERLIN SPD MEMBERS AND MIDDLE LEVEL
UNION OFFICIALS WHO IDENTIFY WITH THE RIGHT WING OF
THE PARTY HAD SUBMITTED AN 18APAGE TYPEWRITTEN REPORT
TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL SPD, LISTING
THE FAILURES OF THE PRESENT BERLIN SENAT, SHARPLY
CRITICIZING GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ FOR WEAK AND
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INDECISIVE LEADERSHIP, AND CALLING FOR HIS REMOVAL
AS GOVERNING MAYOR AND FOR A RE-SHUFFLING OF THESENAT.
IN THE PAPER THE ANONYMOUS AUTHOR (REPORTEDLY 6 IN
NUMBER AND REPRESENTING A BROADER GROUP OF ABOUT 20)
ARGUED THAT THEIR PRESENTATION REPRESENTED A SERIOUS
EFFORT AT SELF-CRITICISM OF THE PARTY AND ITS LEADER-
SHIP, AND WARNED THAT UNLESS THE PARTY WERE TO PUT
ITSELF IN ORDER QUICKLY ITWAS CERTAIN TO LOSE THE
1979 ELECTION TO THE CDU. THE BERLIN PRESS IMMEDIATELY
PICKED UP THE WELT STORIES AND PLAYED THEM AS FRONT

PAGE NEWS FOR SEVERAL DAYS, WITHOUT, HOWEVER, ADDING MUCH NEW INFORMATION THAT WHAT WAS ORIGINALLY REPORTED BY WELT. SEIZING ON THE PRESS STORIES OF THE ATTACK ON SCHUETZ, BERLIN CDU FRAKTION CHAIRMAN LUMMER CALLED FOR EARLY ELECTIONS TO CLEAR THE POLITICAL AIR IN THE CITY. AT THE SAME TIME LUMMER AND THE CDU MADE HONEYED COMMENTES ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A GRAND CDU-SPD COALITION. COMMENT: NO ONE TAKES THE CDU'S CALL FOR NEW ELECTIONS SERIOUSLY.

2. MAYOR SCHUETZ AND LEADING SENAT OFFICIALS HAVE DISMISSED THE ESSAY AS BEING UNWORTHLY OF PUBLIC COMMENT PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE WAY IT WAS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARTY AND PUBLIC. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH MISSION OFFICERS LEADING SENAT OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO TENDED TO PLAY DOWN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS LATEST ATTACK ON SCHUETZ, DISPARAGING THE AUTHORS FOR THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AND BROADLY IMPLYING THE PAPER COULD WELL HAVE BEEN THE WOK OF DIRTY TRICKSTERS IN THE CDU. AT THE SAME TIME, SPOKESMAN FOR THE RIGHT WING OF THE PARTY, KLAUS RIEBSCHLAGER, PROFESSING TO KNOW NOTHING OF THE ORIGIN OF THE PAPER, TOLD MISOFF THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME "IMPORTANT PEOPLE" INVOLVED IN ITS WRITING. BERLIN DGB CHAIRMAN , WALTER SICKERT, IN CONVERSATION WITH MISOFF, DENIED UKON INVOLVEMENT IN THE WRITING OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE PAPER, AND CRITICIZED THOSE WHO WOULD HIDE BEHIND A CLOAK OF ANONYMITY IN ATTACKING THE SENAT. SICKERT DID NOTHING, HOWEVER, TO DISTNACE HIMSELF FROM THE GENERAL THRUST OF THE CONTENTS OF THE PAPER.

3. THE ESSAY ITSELF, IS PRESENTED AS A "STATE OF THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT", AT THE HALFWAY POINT IN THE 1975-79 PARLIAMENTARY PERIOD. THE CENTRAL THEME OF THE ESSAY IS THAT THE BERLIN SPD LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN WEAK WHEN IT COMES TO COPING WITH THE INTERNAL LEFT/RIGHT SPLIT, INDECISIVE, AND UNIMAGINATIVE IN DEALING WITH THE CITY'S EVERYDAY COMMUNAL PROBLEMS,HAS PUT TOGETHER A CITY ADMINISTRATION SHOT THROUGH WITH CRONYISM (FILZOKRATIE) TO THE POINT WHERE CORRUPTION HAS SET IN (KPM AFFAIR), AND BEARS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SADDLING THE OVER-BURDENED AND THINLY STRETCHED CITY BUDGET WITH SCANDALOUS WHITE ELEPHNAT BUILDING PROJECTS (STEGLITZER KREISEL, KONGRESSZENTRUM, AND NEUE HEIMAT PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS). OTHER SPECIFIC ITEMS FOR WHICH THE SENAT COMES UNDER SHARP CRITICISM IN THE ANONYMOUS PAPER INCLUDE THE HANDLING OF THE NATIONAL STIFTUNG ISSUE, UNIVERSITY POLICIES,AND THE SENAT'S FAILURE TO MAINTAIN GOOD CONTACTS WITH BERLIN'S

UNIONS.

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